

Tips on Evidence

4 Ex-Reds Give Advice To Senators

By Murrey Marder

Post Reporter

A panel of four former Communist "experts" agreed before the Senate Internal Security subcommittee yesterday that lack of documentary evidence should not deter action against Communist agents.

That was the substance of opinion expressed in one of the most unusual "hearings" Capitol Hill has ever seen.

The witnesses, appearing en masse, were four of the most publicized one-time Communists: Whittaker Chambers, Elizabeth Bentley and Hede Massing, all former Red couriers, and Herbert Philbrick, who joined the Communists as an FBI undercover agent.

Advice on IPR Quiz

Their seminar-type performance was intended to serve as "advice" for the subcommittee in weighing testimony in its year-old investigation of the Institute of Pacific Relations.

Through the hearing, it was apparent, the subcommittee also expected to provide some kind of answers to its critics. They have contended that some witnesses before the subcommittee failed to document charges that there were Communists in IPR who used that research group to influence Far East policy.

It is virtually impossible to provide documentation that any one has been a Communist espionage agent, the witnesses agreed, except in such a case as that in which Chambers produced State Department documents which he said Alger Hiss provided.

A fifth member of the panel, Rear Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, concurred.

Hillenkoetter, who was formerly head of the Central Intelligence Agency, said it would be "very stupid" for any undercover agent to carry any trace of his real identity. Many of CIA's own agents were unknown to him, said Hillenkoetter.

Assume Present Operation

Chambers and Miss Bentley both said they assume there are Communist agents still operating in Government posts, although they said they have no

"It would be childish to suppose there are none," Chambers said.

"Security agencies should assume that attempts are constantly being made to penetrate the Government," said Chambers. "When I left the party (in the late 1930s) there were agents in the Government."

Miss Bentley, who last acted as a Communist courier in 1944, said she heard of four espionage rings in Government at that time, only two of which have been "exposed."

Since the others haven't been "exposed," she contended, obviously they're still operating.

Hypothetical Questions

Subcommittee Counsel Robert Morris and Counsel J. G. Sourwine asked all the witnesses a series of hypothetical questions aimed at eliciting comment on testimony the subcommittee has previously heard.

Many of those were clearly directed at Owen Lattimore, IPR trustee and Johns Hopkins University professor who has been a leading target of the investigation.

Morris asked for comment on the "significance" of Lattimore's testimony that on several occasions Lattimore conferred with

States. Lattimore has flatly denied that the talks had any Communist overtones.

Chambers said that to him such meetings would be "extraordinary, interesting." Said Miss Bentley: "I would look into it."

Sourwine, in a reference to a former Russian general's charge that a Soviet intelligence chief once told him to regard Lattimore as one of "our men," asked Chambers:

"If B said his chief said X was a Communist would that weigh more than X's statement?"

"I'd give credence to the superior," replied Chambers. Philbrick and the others agreed. Mrs. Massing noted, "You could never prove, for example, that I was a party member." While she worked for the Communists for many years, she said, she held a membership card for only two weeks.

Earlier, Maj. Gen. Claire L. Chennault, wartime commander of the "Flying Tigers" in China and still an intimate of Nationalist Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, said he believes United States policy in postwar China helped the Communists and hurt the Nationalists. The subcommittee has previously heard exten-